

# Kentucky Agri-News

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In cooperation with the  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
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*Featuring:*

► **Cattle**  
► **Slaughter**

► **Sheep**  
► **Farm Numbers**

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## KENTUCKY CATTLE INVENTORY DECLINES

The cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2008 was estimated at 2.40 million head. Inventory was down 60,000 head from the 2.46 million for last year. This was due in large part to the hot, dry summer that reduced availability of pasture for grazing and reduced hay supplies going into winter. Steers and milk cow replacement heifers showed an increase in inventory, bulls remained equal to the previous year, while all of the other individual categories showed declines.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 1.25 million head, down 50,000 head from the 1.30 million for 2007. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 1.16 million head and milk cows were estimated at 91,000 head. Milk cow numbers in Kentucky continue to decline.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 340,000 head, a decrease of 10,000 head from last year's estimate of 350,000. Beef replacement heifers at 185,000 head were down 5,000 from January 2007, dairy heifers at 45,000 were up 5,000 and other heifers at 110,000 were down 10,000 head from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 240,000 head, an increase of 20,000 from 2007. Bulls 500 lbs. and over numbered 80,000 head, unchanged from last year. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 490,000 head, a decrease of 20,000 from the 2007 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 15,000 head, a decrease of 5,000 head from the previous year.

The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 1.11 million calves, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous year estimate.

**U.S. class** estimates on January 1, 2008 and the change from January 1, 2007, are as follows:

- - **All cattle and calves**, 96.7 million, slightly below.
- - **All cows and heifers that have calved**, 41.8 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Beef cows**, 32.6 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Milk cows**, 9.22 million, up 1 percent.
- - **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 20.0 million, down slightly.
- - **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.67 million, down 4 percent.
- - **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.46 million, up 3 percent.
- - **Other heifers**, 9.88 million, down slightly.
- - **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.3 million, up slightly.
- - **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.21 million, down slightly.
- - **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.4 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up slightly.

The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 37.4 million head, down slightly from 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 27.2 million, down 1 percent from 2006.

**CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS,  
CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP  
JANUARY 1, 2007 – 2008**

CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2007	2008	08 % of 07	2007 <u>1/</u>	2008	08 % of 06
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,460	2,400	98	97,003	96,669	100
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,300	1,250	96	42,023	41,777	99
Beef Cows	1,207	1,159	96	32,891	32,553	99
Milk Cows	93	91	98	9,132	9,224	101
Heifers 500 Lbs & over	350	340	97	20,086	20,003	100
Beef Cow Replacement	190	185	97	5,877	5,670	96
Milk Cow Replacement	40	45	113	4,310	4,457	103
Other Heifers	120	110	92	9,899	9,876	100
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	220	240	109	17,222	17,305	100
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	80	80	100	2,215	2,207	100
Calves Under 500 Lbs	510	490	96	15,456	15,378	99
Cattle on Feed <u>2/</u>	20	15	75	14,269	14,317	100
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,130	1,110	98	37,519	37,361	100

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

## SHEEP AND GOATS

Sheep and lambs inventories in **Kentucky** were unchanged from last year while goat inventories show an increase.

All meat and other goats in Kentucky were estimated at 81,400 head, an increase of 7,400 from January 2007. Milk goats at 5,900 head, was up 600 head from the previous year's estimate.

The total number of sheep in Kentucky on January 1, 2008, was estimated at 37,000 head unchanged from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 30,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 7,000 head, both unchanged from 2007. Breeding ewes increased by 1,000 to 23,000, while breeding rams were unchanged at 2,000 head. Replacement lambs numbered 5,000, a decrease of 1,000 head from 2007. Lamb crop for 2007 increased by 6,000 from last year to 31,000 head.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2008, totaled 6.06 million head, down 2 percent from 2007. After consecutive increases in 2005 and 2006, inventory has now declined for the past two years. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.51 million head on January 1, 2008, down 2 percent from 4.61 million head on January 1, 2007. Ewes one year old and older, at

3.62 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008, totaled 1.55 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2007. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head, was down slightly from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 110 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from 2006. The leading sheep and lamb state was Texas with 1.05 million head.

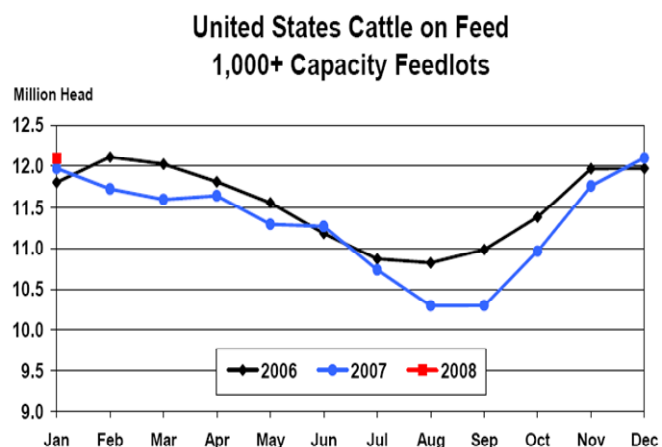
All goat inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2008, totaled 3.02 million head, up 3 percent from 2007. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.50 million head up 2 percent from 2007. All market goats and kids totaled 520,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2008, meat and all other goats totaled 2.50 million head, up 4 percent from 2007. Milk goat inventory increased 4 percent to 305,000 head while angora goats were down 12 percent totaling 210,000. The 2007 kid crop totaled 1.94 million head for all goats, up 1 percent from 2006. The number one goat and kid state was Texas with 1.27 million head.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.1 million head on January 1, 2008. The inventory was 1 percent above January 1, 2007 and 2 percent above January 1, 2006. This is the highest January 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.65 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.38 million head, up 2 percent from 2007.

**Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.70 million, 1 percent below 2006 and 10 percent below 2005. Net placements were 1.64 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 480,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 296,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.65 million, 1 percent above 2006 but 4 percent below 2005. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the

month of December since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 58,000 during December, 34 percent below 2006 and 36 percent below 2005.



## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.06 billion pounds in December, up 5 percent from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in December 2006. December 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.65 million head, up 1 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,302 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.97 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.69 million head, up 9 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY <sup>1/</sup>

Type	December 2006	November 2007	December 2007	December 07 % of	
				December 2006	November 2007
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,049.5	2,229.1	2,059.4	100	92
Veal	13.1	10.1	10.4	79	104
Pork	1,796.4	2,045.4	1,972.9	110	96
Lamb & Mutton	15.4	16.1	15.4	99	95
Total U.S.	3,874.5	4,300.6	4,058.1	105	94
Total Kentucky	42.8	51.8	50.8	119	98

<sup>1/</sup> Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 2006 & 2007 <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.4	1.7	1,345	1,606	948	929
Hogs	209.8	243.3	55,871	65,817	267	271
Sheep & Lambs	1.0	1.0	115	125	117	124
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,612.5	2,645.3	3,385,204	3,430,848	1,300	1,302
Hogs	8,882.8	9,691.3	2,402,254	2,633,077	271	272
Sheep & Lambs	226.9	229.1	30,762	30,826	136	135

<sup>1/</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

# KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

In 2007, there were 83,000 farms in **Kentucky**, 1,000 fewer farms than a year ago. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Sales also include government payments. Farm numbers include properties with acres enrolled in the Conservation or Wetland Reserve government programs. Research and institutional farms are included in the farm definition. Kentucky was the fourth ranking state in the number of farms. Texas ranked first with 229,000. Missouri was second with 104,500, and third placed Iowa had 88,400. Kentucky farm numbers were further divided into 5 distinct sales categories: 51,000 had sales of \$1,000-\$9,999; 25,000 with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999; 4,300 with sales of \$100,000-\$249,999; 1,500 with sales of \$250,000-\$499,999; and 1,200 with sales of \$500,000 or more. Total land in farms was 13.7 million acres, unchanged from 2006. Farmland represents 53.9 percent of Kentucky's approximate 25.4 million total acres. The number of farms declined while land in farms remained constant resulting in the average farm size to increase by 2 to 165 acres.

Kentucky cattle and calf operations totaled 45,000 for 2007. Beef cow operations totaled 38,000, milk cows totaled 1,900, sheep and lambs totaled 1,400, hogs and pigs totaled 1,000, and goats totaled 4,100. In comparison to last year, cattle and calf operations and beef cows were unchanged, milk cows lost 100 operations, sheep and lambs were unchanged, hog and pigs gained 100 operations, and goats gained 200 operations.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2007 is estimated at 2.08 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms, at 930.9 million acres, decreased 1.5 million acres, or 0.16 percent, from 2006. The average farm size was 449 acres during 2007, an increase of three acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses. Farm numbers declined in the \$1,000-\$9,999 and the \$10,000 - \$99,999 sales classes. Farm numbers rose slightly in the three largest sales classes. The changes within the sales classes were a result of operations moving to larger sales classes by consolidation or expansion and rising incomes as result of strong commodity prices. Because of rising incomes, many farms and ranches near the top of their sales class in 2006 moved into the next higher sales class in 2007

without adding land or otherwise expanding their operations. The largest percentage changes from 2006 occurred in the smallest and largest sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.5 percent, to 1.14 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 4.4 percent, to 84,970 farms, in the \$500,000 and over sales class. The number of farms with less than \$100,000 in sales fell 1.2 percent from 2006 while the number of farms with \$100,000 or more in sales rose 2.2 percent. Land in farms also shifted from lower sales classes to higher sales classes. In the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 1.6 percent, to 112.8 million acres, while land operated by farms in the largest sales class, \$500,000 and over in sales, increased 1.8 percent, to 217.3 million acres.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 967,440 during 2007, down slightly from 2006 and 2 percent below 2005. Beef cow operations in 2007 were down 1 percent from 2006 and 2 percent below 2005. Milk cow operations were 5 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. The three operation classes: cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and 1-49 size group for beef cows. The number of operations with hogs totaled 65,640 during 2007, down slightly from 2006 and down 2 percent from 2005. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 82 percent of the inventory. The number of operations with sheep totaled 70,590 during 2007, up 2 percent from 2006 and up 3 percent from 2005. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 91.1 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.4 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.5 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 30.8 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 23.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 46.1 percent of the inventory. The number of operations with goats totaled 108,130 during 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. Angora goat operations totaled 4,550, down 4 percent from 2006. Milk goat operations totaled 19,930, up slightly from 2006. Meat goat operations totaled 90,270, up 4 percent from 2006. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat because places which own more than one goat type only count as one operation.

**Internet Access:** Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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